

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 117357
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03 AID-05 ARA-14
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NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 /123 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P: BRUSSELL:PCM

APPROVED BY AF/P: RHOLLIDAY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANJUL

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PRAIA

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLASSIFIED

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UNCLAS STATE 117357

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING MAY 8, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL

VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

Q. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WHICH HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECOMMENDING FUNDING FOR ZAIRE, HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ACCUSATION THAT WAS MADE PUBLICLY YESTERDAY ON TELEVISION THAT ZAIRE PRESIDENT MOBUTOU POCKETED FOR HIS OWN USE 1.4 MILLION DOLLARS WHICH WAS DELIVERED TO HIM BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO BE RELAYED TO ROBERTO HOLDEN AND SAVIMBI?

A. THOSE ALLEGATIONS, I BELIEVE, WERE RAISED IN THE CONTEXT OF INTELLIGENCE MATTERS, AND I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT.

Q. APART FROM THEIR RIGHTNESS OR WRONGNESS, DO YOU HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE AS TO WHETHER THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS AWARE OF THEM?

A. I DON'T KNOW, BUT I THINK THAT IT WILL BE IN ANY CASE FRUITLESS FOR ME TO TAKE THE QUESTION ON THE SUBJECT BECAUSE I THINK THAT THEY INVOLVE INTELLIGENCE MATTERS ON WHICH WE DON'T COMMENT.

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Q. ALL RIGHT. NOW, APART FROM THAT, COULD WE HAVE A CURRENT RUNDOWN ON THE STATE OF AMERICAN AID -- ONGOING AID AND AID REQUESTS FOR ZAIRE?

A. I'LL TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q. THERE IS A REPORT FROM MOGADISHU THAT THERE IS APPARENTLY WIDESPREAD FIGHTING IN THE OGADEN EVEN NOW, WITH THE GUERRILLAS CLAIMING 4,000 ETHIOPIANS KILLED AND 262 CUBANS KILLED SINCE THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE REGULAR SOMALI FORCES IN MARCH. DO YOU HAVE ANY INDEPENDENT DATA ON HOW WIDESPREAD THE FIGHTING STILL IS IN THE OGADEN, AND WHETHER IT CONSISTS STRICTLY OF INDIGENOUS GUERRILLAS OR NOT, AND WHETHER IT AFFECTS WHAT I ASSUME TO BE ONGOING EFFORTS TO ARRANGE A SETTLEMENT THERE?

A. ON THE FIRST PART OF IT, I'VE SEEN THOSE REPORTS. I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING INDEPENDENT TO OFFER YOU ON THIS. I NOTE THAT THOSE REPORTS ARE CLAIMS FROM PARTICIPANTS IN THE FIGHTING. ON THAT LAST HALF OF YOUR QUESTION ABOUT OUR EFFORTS TO EFFECT A SETTLEMENT, OUR EFFORTS, OBVIOUSLY ARE CONTINUING IN THAT AREA. AGAIN, I DON'T HAVE ANY JUDGMENT FOR YOU ON THE IMPACT OF THAT REPORTED FIGHTING, NOR DO I HAVE ANYTHING WHICH INDEPENDENTLY SUBSTANTIATES THOSE CLAIMS.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INDICATION OF WHETHER SOMALIA OR SO-

MALI REGULARS ARE INVOLVED AT ALL IN THAT FIGHTING?

A. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE ARE NO SOMALI REGULARS INVOLVED INSIDE ETHIOPIA.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING THREE SUBJECTS, NAMELY, ACTIVITY INVOLVING CUBANS IN ERITREA: THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE RHODESIAN SITUATION?

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A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING NEW ON ANY OF IT, EXCEPT ON THE NAMIBIAN THING, WHICH I THINK YOU HAVE ALL SEEN WHICH IS SIMPLY THAT THE SWAPO DELEGATION HAS CANCELLED OR POSTPONED ITS TALKS TODAY WITH THE CONTACT GROUP IN NEW YORK, AND HAVE GONE HOME FOR APPARENT CONSULTATION. MR. NUJOMA TOLD THE FIVE, THE CONTACT GROUP, BY LETTER LAST EVENING THAT IN THE LIGHT OF THE ADDITIONAL REPORTS ON THE DAMAGE RESULTING FROM THE RECENT SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACK ON ANGOLA, THAT HIS DELEGATION IN NEW YORK HAD BEEN RECALLED BY THE SWAPO CENTRAL COMMITTEE. HE SAID

IN HIS LETTER THAT SOUTH AFRICA'S ACTIONS CAST SERIOUS DOUBTS ON THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESSFUL TALKS, BUT EXPRESSED SWAPO'S CONTINUED WISH FOR AN ACCEPTABLE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO HOPE SWAPO WILL ACCEPT THE WESTERN PROPOSAL FOR SETTLEMENT, AND WE, OF COURSE, WELCOME THE EXPRESSION OF SWAPO'S WISH FOR A SETTLEMENT, AND WE INTEND TO CONTINUE PURSUING THAT. WE OBVIOUSLY, WANT TO RESUME THE TALKS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

Q. IN CONNECTION WITH THAT, CAN YOU BRING US UP TO DATE ON OUR EXCHANGES WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS ABOUT THE RAID? WAS THERE EVER AN EXPLANATION?

A. THEY DID PROVIDE US WITH AN EXPLANATION OF THEIR REASONS. IN THE WAKE OF THE EXPLANATION, I HAVE TO SAY THAT WE DO NOT FEEL THE RAID AS JUSTIFIED UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND OBVIOUSLY, WE ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE TIMING.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT THE RESPONSE?

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A. NO. I'M SORRY. THAT WAS IN A DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE I'M NOT ABLE TO SHARE WITH YOU.

Q. WHERE DO YOU GO FROM HERE?

A. NOWHERE. WE SUPPORTED THE U.N. RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE ACTION, AND I THINK AT THIS POINT WHAT WE WANT TO DO IS CONTINUE TO PRESS FORWARD FOR ACCEPTANCE BY THE OTHER PARTY TO THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSALS.

Q. WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES VIEW AS TO THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE WESTERN PLAN HAS NOW BEEN SET BACK?

A. WE THINK THAT THE RAID HAD AN UNFORTUNATE EFFECT ON THE TALKS. THAT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF THAT THAT WAS THE REASON GIVEN FOR SWAPO'S WITHDRAWAL, FROM THE CONVERSATION; BUT WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE PLAN WE HAVE OFFERED IS A FAIR AND EQUITABLE BASIS FOR SOLUTION IN NAMIBIA AND WE CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR IT.

Q. YOU JUST SAID THAT THE RAID WAS UNJUSTIFIED. DID YOU COMMUNICATE THIS TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS?

A. YES, WE HAVE.

Q. IN WHAT FORM?

A. WE EXPRESSED IT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, BOTH OUR DISMAY AT THE ACTION AND THE CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF IT.

Q. DID THIS EXCHANGE TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE VOTE IN THE U.N. ON SATURDAY?

A. YES, IT DID.

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Q. CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT THE NUMBER OF FORCES INVOLVED IN THAT RAID?

A. NO.

Q. WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO RESPOND IN ANY FASHION TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE UNITED STATES IS IN ANY WAY STILL SUPPORTING, THROUGH ANY BRANCH OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN THEIR ACTIVITIES AGAINST ANGOLA?

A. NO, WE'RE NOT. WE ARE PROVIDING NO MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH AFRICA, AND HAVE NOT, AS YOU KNOW, FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME.

Q. IS THE UNITED STATES AWARE, OR DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE REPORTS THAT SOUTH AFRICA, ON A CONTINUING BASIS, HAS BEEN FLYING SUPPLY MISSIONS INTO ANGOLA FOR THE SUPPORT OF UNITA?

A. I'VE SEEN THOSE REPORTS. I DON'T HAVE ANY OBSERVATIONS ON THEM.

Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, BELIEVE THAT MR. NETO AND HIS GOVERNMENT IN LUANDA HAS MORE OF A LEGITIMATE CLAIM TO ALL OF ANGOLA THAN MR. SAVIMBI?

A. I AM NOT SURE OF THE EXACT PHRASEOLOGY OF THE RESPONSE, SO I WILL TAKE THAT QUESTION, BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO SIMPLY GIVE YOU ONE OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD.

Q. MAY I REPHRASE HIS QUESTION ON THE SAME THING? IS THE UNITED STATES PROVIDING MILITARY AID TO SAVIMBI
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THROUGH ANY THIRD PARTY?

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH THING.

Q. ONE OF THE BASIC CHARGES THAT STOCKWELL MADE IN THE INTERVIEW WAS THAT IF U.S. POLICY HAD NOT BEEN SO BUNGLED IN 1975, THE CUBANS THEMSELVES WOULD NOT BE THERE TODAY.

COULD YOU ADDRESS YOURSELF TO THAT? DO YOU ACCEPT THAT KIND OF REPORT?

A. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THAT ALLEGATION.

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:RLKATES
APPROVED BY AF/C:LDJR
-----052599 091913Z /64

R 091740Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

UNCLAS STATE 117357

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 117357 ACTION BANJUL USNATO LONDON PARIS
BONN MASERU MONROVIA PORT LOUIS MAPUTO VICTORIA MOGADISCIO

PRETORIA COTONOU YAOUNDE PRAIA BRAZZAVILLE ADDIS ABABA DJIBOUTI
LIBREVILLE ABIDJAN NAIROBI KHARTOUM DAR ES SALAAM LUSAKA USUN
NEW YORK MAY 8.

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UNQUOTE VANCE

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